Talking Points for the DDI's Luncheon at State with the DDO 1 December 1988	. 2
at State with the DDO	
1 December 1988	
Sudan: Status of the Southern Insurgency	
The Political Front	
A government coalition party, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), and the southern insurgents, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), in mid-November 1988 signed a peace accord in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to end the five year civil war.	
The agreement calls for: a ceasefire, the lifting of national emergency laws, freezing discussions on the implementation of Islamic Lawa key rebel demandand the abrogation of international military pacts before convening a national constitutional convention.	2
The agreement must be endorsed in Khartoum by the other coalition parties, the Umma Party and the National Islamic Front (NIF). The NIF, however, opposes the agreement because it would postpone the implementation of Islamic law, while Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi and his Umma party are reluctant to accept it fearing that the NIF will leave the government and take its well-organized membership to the	
streets.	2
The Military Front	
On the battlefield the insurgents retain the initiative.	
The SPLA during the summer rains captured a number of small government garrisons while isolating Juba, the de facto capital of the south.	
The rebel rainy season operations have disrupted government preparations for a winter dry season campaign to reverse rebel gains.	

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- -- The Army probably hopes to use a negotiated ceasefire as a respite from rebel pressure to resupply its depleted forces in the south.
- --Conversely, the rebels probably hope that a ceasefire will preclude any government operations this winter when government forces will have greater tactical mobility.

In the event that Khartoum's political infighting continues to prevent the implementation of a ceasefire, we believe the government will be hard-pressed to reverse rebel gains and may even suffer additional losses this winter.

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Foreign Military Assistance

The deteriorating security situation this summer forced the government to seek Iraqi and Libyan military assistance.

--Baghdad and Tripoli airlifted arms and ammunition to Khartoum and three Libyan-piloted MIG-23s and two AN-26 light transport aircraft currently are deployed in Sudan, performing bombing missions against SPLA positions.

In our view, this assistance will not significantly contribute to the government's counterinsurgency efforts, but future government setbacks in the south are likely to increase Khartoum's dependence on Iraqi and Libyan assistance.

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